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Lenten Campaign on Evangelism


1920

Purpose :

To put the Protestant Church
of America in Circulation
for Christ

Interchurch World Movement
of North America

45 West 18th Street, New York City



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Victory Through Prayer

The history of every great spiritual triumph is the history of answered prayer. "With our Lord," says George Adam Smith, "prayer was not a preparation for the battle; prayer was the battle." The reach and power of the evangelistic campaign will depend upon how far this spirit dominates the lives of the leaders and permeates the churches and communities where the work is going forward. In the secret places of fellowship with God the triumph will begin.

Words are inadequate to express how imperative it is that everything possible be done to call out and release the prayer power of the church.

The following suggestions are offered as some of the ways of bringing this about:

1. Utilize to the fullest possible extent the members of the Fellowship of Intercession or any other list of enrolled intercessors by giving them definite subjects for prayer and special evangelistic tasks.
2. Ask all Christians to pause for a moment of prayer for the campaign at twelve o'clock each day. While the

campaign is in progress ring all church bells or chimes for a moment at noon as a reminder of the prayer time.

3. Give special place to prayer in all stated church meetings. One or two Sunday church services might well be set aside entirely for intercession.
4. Use the Group or Unit Leaders for the circulation of literature on prayer and for the holding of special group meetings for prayer.
5. Organize community prayer meetings where practicable, relating them to definite personal work and other evangelistic plans.

Every Church Evangelism

These suggestions are not intended to interfere with the perfect freedom of any pastor or church in making its own evangelistic program. The purpose of the Interchurch Evangelistic Campaign is to supplement the work of the local church and the resident minister by suggesting certain forms of common evangelistic endeavor which will make it easier and more effective for every pastor and every church to secure the largest evangelistic product. No evangelistic agency can compare in value and power to the local religious society called a church. Nothing should be allowed to deprive that local church of its mission to be a continuous and compelling evangelist in the community.

The slogan of this campaign is:

**Every Christian an Evangelist.
Every Church a Center of
Evangelism and Community Service.**

Evangelism which does not fruit in community service is socially deficient. Community service which does not root in evangelism is spiritually deficient.

**EVERY PROTESTANT CHURCH IN AMERICA IS
URGED TO CONDUCT A SERIES OF SPECIAL
EVANGELISTIC SERVICES UNDER THE DIREC-
TION OF THE RESIDENT MINISTER FOR AT
LEAST TWO WEEKS PRECEDING EASTER
SUNDAY**

Out of Circulation

No members of the Protestant churches of America ought to face more fearlessly Christ's parable of the lost silver than the men and women in official position in our churches. What was the matter with that piece of silver? *It was lost.* In what sense? *Lost in circulation.* It was a good coin if it could be found. But it was *out of circulation.* Nothing could be bought with it while it was out of circulation. If you take money out of circulation you induce a financial panic. Spiritual bankruptcy will come in the church unless her leaders get in circulation for Christ. Christ can be counted on; can He count on the church officials of America to be His witnesses, His ambassadors, His partners?

Our slogan for our lay officials is:

As the Church Officials go for Christ, so goes the Whole Church

In every community, as early in Lent as possible, the church officials of every Protestant church should be brought together in an assembly and face the entire Protestant evangelistic obligation in that community. If this group will not face the facts in the light of the face of Christ, there will be no spiritual awakening. The evangelistic destiny of any community is determined by the church officials. They are the biggest unused evangelistic asset in America.

“Not by Bread Alone”

No word of Jesus seems more imperative for men who are earning higher wages and have secured more material comforts than at any hour in the history of the world. We have but one gospel for the employer and the employed. We know only one Christ for all men regardless of social, financial, or economic distinction. In harmony with the teaching of Christ that all men are brothers, suggestion is made that every possible enterprise be manifested in securing a hearing for Jesus Christ among the industrial groups of the nation.

1. Through the recognized community organization such as ministers' associations, Federation of Churches, Y.M.C.A., and other organized groups of Chris-

tian leaders, to arrange an extensive Shop and Factory Campaign during Lent. Meetings could be held once a week during the month preceding Easter and possibly each day during Holy Week at the noon hour. On Good Friday request, wherever possible, a reasonable extension of time on the pay of the employer, so as to secure a fair hearing for the Good Friday message.

2. To arrange with the labor groups of the community to go into their halls or labor unions and interpret the Christian message on the basis of the Sermon on the Mount. The Industrial Relations Department of the Interchurch Movement is heartily cooperating in this plan.

Our slogan:

*The Working Men of America for the
Master Workman of Galilee*

Take Somebody Your Size

Emphasis has been given to the necessity of winning folks to Christ in the 'teen age so that one wonders whether the Christian church has given up hope of winning adults. When an adult is won to Christ he may be only an addition table; when you win a boy to Christ he may be a multiplication table. But has the church no unsolved problem in losing her adult men? Is Christ unequal to the task of winning

strong men; successful men; prosperous men; professional men? The church is not winning such men in any considerable numbers. Is Christ incompetent or is the church helpless?

What are we doing to win men like Nicodemus, like Matthew, like Saul of Tarsus? The challenge of this campaign to the "big business" men in the church is to *"Take Somebody Your Size."* Challenge the bankers to win other bankers. Challenge the lawyers to win other lawyers. Challenge the merchants to win other merchants. Challenge the directors of big corporations to win other directors. Challenge the biggest Christian men in the community to win others just like themselves. Easy to win the boys and girls. Easy to approach the drunkard. Easy to talk with the unprivileged classes. *"Take Somebody Your Size."*

Call together in a series of business men's luncheons the brightest, best, biggest business men in town. Summon them to this service of winning other big men to Christ. Challenge them to test their salesmanship by selling the gospel to other men like themselves.

Men.....Women

MEN—1. Every well organized Y. M. C. A. in the country conducts a men's meeting either on Sunday afternoon or on a week night. The pastors of America are urged to cooperate with the local Association leaders in making these men's meetings

during Lent distinctly and definitely evangelistic in spirit and method. Unless men are brought face to face with Christ, and their personal allegiance to Christ is secured, we can hardly justify our organized Christian work for men in any community.

2. In communities where there is no Y. M. C. A. organization, but where there are several churches, it is hoped that the pastors and laymen of these churches will unite in holding at least one evangelistic meeting every week for men only. All the Christian men in the community should join in this united effort to reach the men of the community for Christ. Sunday afternoon is suggested for such a community evangelistic meeting for men only.

WOMEN—1. In our large centers we have our Y. W. C. A. What has been indicated as a policy for the Y. M. C. A. during Lent applies equally to the Y. W. C. A. Special efforts should be made to win the young women to Christ.

2. There is a unique opportunity for the Y. W. C. A. to bring the Christian message to the business women of our cities. Our churches should cooperate heartily. Both the Y. M. C. A. and the Y. W. C. A. are the Protestant churches in action serving special social groups in the name of Christ.

Holy Week

This is the largest evangelistic opportunity of the entire church year. No Pro-

testant church in America should fail to use it to secure new disciples for the Christ of Calvary and the open tomb.

1. *Palm Sunday, March 28, Acknowledgment Day.* Many will make decisions to follow Christ during Lent who will acknowledge Him openly on this day. Every denomination can doubtless secure ample literature from its Sunday school Board on "Decision Day." Adapt it for Palm Sunday both in the Sunday school and in the Young People's Societies. This day should mark a spiritual epoch among the young people of America.
2. Daily noon-day meetings for all people should be held in the business sections of our cities in some downtown church or theater.
3. The church bells or chimes of every Protestant church in the community should be rung as a call to prayer for a spiritual awakening throughout the nation and especially in the churches of that community.
4. *Good Friday Three Hour Service.* In several sections of our larger cities and in every community where there are several Protestant churches, a devotional service of three hours, from 12 o'clock noon until 3 o'clock, ought to be held. The best music of the community should be available, interpreting Christ

and His cross. The seven sayings of the cross should be the subjects of addresses, petitions, praise.

5. *Stores Closed.* The merchants in many cities will close their stores for the noon hour on Good Friday if requested by the churches. Try it. No testimony to the need of the Christ of the cross will be more effective.
6. *Join-the-Church Sunday—Easter, April 4.* This day should witness the reception into church fellowship of the largest number of new disciples of Christ who have ever been received on any one day in the history of Protestantism. It should be the beginning of a new world Pentecost.

THE SUGGESTIONS IN THIS LEAFLET are intended to supplement those contained in the booklet entitled "The Nineteen-Twenty Evangelistic Campaign," the common evangelistic features of which are commended to all cooperating denominations.

